FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: LoriAnn Wukitsch
E-mail: lwukitsch@historicbethlehem.org
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THE FIRST STEP OUT OF YOUR BACKYARD SHOULD BE TO OURS
Historic Bethlehem Museums & Sites to Hold 29th Annual Garden Tour In Person

BETHLEHEM, PA, May 2021 – For 28 years, the Rooms to View House & Garden Tour has been the premiere Spring fundraising event at Historic Bethlehem Museums & Sites (HBMS). After taking on a digital format in 2020 due to the pandemic, this year HBMS is getting back to their roots with an outdoor preview party and outdoor garden tour for the 29th Annual Historic Bethlehem Museums & Sites Garden Tour on June 11 and 12, 2021.

The Historic Bethlehem Museums & Sites Garden Tour kicks off with an outdoor preview party on Friday, June 11 at the historic Burnside Plantation. Guests will be able to enjoy a safe, socially distanced gathering across the 6.5 acre “farm-in-the-city.” From the time of its original purchase by James and Mary Burnside until today, this site has remained a farm. Today, Burnside Plantation is an historic site interpreting farming and farm life from 1748-1848 in this Moravian community. James and Mary Burnside will be in costume to welcome the guest to the historic site.

Festivities will run 5:00-8:00 pm and include heavy hors d'oeuvres catered by Karen Hunter, with food cooked in the historic Summer Kitchen, and music by Big Wahu Caribbean Band. Guests will have the opportunity to visit the newly refurbished James Burnside farmhouse and the volunteer-run Colonial Kitchen Garden which won a Blue Ribbon in the 2020 Pennsylvania Horticultural Society Gardening Contest. Burnside Plantation is located at 1461 Schoenersville Road, Bethlehem, and Uber drop-offs are available at the Burnside Plantation parking lot.

On Saturday, June 12, garden tour guests will be able to visit a beautiful myriad of gardens and beautifully designed outdoor spaces throughout the Lehigh Valley from 10:00 am-4:00 pm. Private gardens include several in Bethlehem at the homes of Eric Schenkel and Susan Baum, Colleen and Mark Gilbert, Keith and Audrey Lombardi, Eric and Teather Royse, Claudia Chouinard Brink, Robin Puleo, Maryann and Gary Millenbruch, and the gardens of Barry Pell and Paul Mackerer in Fountain Hill. Four gardens under the care of HBMS will be on the tour: the Miller’s Garden in the Colonial Industrial Quarter expertly cared for by dedicated members of the Bethlehem Garden Club, the Kemerer Museum of Decorative Arts designed and maintained by The Place, the 1752 Apothecary, and the award-winning gardens at Burnside Plantation, planted and cared for by over 40+ dedicated volunteers.

After the tour, visitors are invited to enjoy wine and cheese in the beautifully designed gardens at the Kemerer Museum of Decorative Arts and visit the brand-new Art At Home exhibition, which celebrates the safe reopening of the Kemerer Museum of the Decorative Arts and explores a personal connection between artwork and the home. The exhibition features artworks on loan from private collections and spotlights of the local artists who loaned their time and talents in
support of HBMS' mission through the Holiday Dinner & Art Auction, all included in the ticket price.

An accompanying video series will be released on Saturday, June 12 to view through June 25. The series features additional private homes and gardens including the home of Leslie Koch, the kitchen of Rich and Christina Hasselbusch, and the kitchen of James and Eileen Serratelli in Bethlehem, the kitchen and outdoor pool of Yasin and Elizabeth Khan in Allentown, and the grounds of Coon Hollow Cottage, property of Cheryl Montero, and Shooting Star Farm in Bucks County.

Tickets for the preview party, the garden tour, and video series are $125 and tickets for just the garden tour and video series are $30 for HBMS members and $40 for future members. Tickets are available on the HBMS website. All proceeds help Historic Bethlehem Museums & Sites to maintain 20 historic landmarks in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

The Historic Bethlehem Museums & Sites Garden Tour is made possible through the generosity of our sponsors: Presenting Sponsor Quadrant Private Wealth, Hospitality Sponsor Tom and Chris Motamed, and Major Sponsors Argyle Capital Management, Christmas City Printing, and Lehigh Valley Style. The full sponsor list can be found on the Garden Tour webpage.

Historic Bethlehem Museums & Sites is a not-for-profit institution that brings to life three centuries of American history. Historic Bethlehem tells the story of a small town of great influence, home to some of our nation’s early settlers, to the first pumped municipal water system in the American colonies, and to one of the world’s greatest industrial companies. Historic Bethlehem is located in eastern Pennsylvania, only an hour drive north from Philadelphia and 2 hours west of New York City. Historic Bethlehem is an Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, part of a National Historic Landmark District, and a designated site on the US Tentative List.

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